

Application No.: 10/02,8659

Case No.: 57347US002

**Remarks**

Claims 1-8, 17, 19, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 18 are amended. Claim 21 has been added. Claims 9-16, 18, and 21 are pending.

Applicant has attached photocopies of IDS postcards received by the USPTO, as requested by Examiner. Applicant is awaiting instructions from USPTO on how to get copies of previously cited references to the Examiner for consideration before this application is allowed.

**Objections**

Claims 16-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (i.e., claim 9) and any intervening claims. (Office Action mailed April 15, 2004; ¶ 5.)

Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 9 rather than now-canceled claim 17. In addition, new claim 21 has been added. Claim 21 combines original claim 9 with the limitations of claim 16.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 9 and new claim 21 correspond to claims that the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.

**§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dylla et al. (U.S. 5,318,656) in view of Dylla (U.S. 5,330,125).

Claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dylla et al. '656 in view of Dylla '125, and further in view of Wienberg et al. (U.S. 5,916,651).

Claims 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dylla et al. '656 in view of Dylla '125, and further in view of McCormick et al. (U.S. 5,524,844).

Applicant respectfully traverses the above-stated rejections for at least the reasons of record. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, please cancel claims 1-8, 17, 19, and 20 without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application.

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Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16. As discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that such a claim would be allowable. Claims 10-16 and 18 depend from claim 9 and add patentable features thereto. Thus, claims 10-16 and 18 are likewise patentable.

In summary, the rejections of claims 1-15, 19, and 20 under 35 USC § 103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 9-16, 18, and 21, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

15 June 2004  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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SAB/TMS/kmm

Form 1

Applic

First Named Inventor: ERICKSON, LEIF O.

File N

Case No.: 57347US002

Title

Application No.: 10/028859

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A SPlicing TApe  
TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL

Page

Enclosures:

Sheet

Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and  
cited references.

Amount charged to Deposit Account: \$None

Date

Attorney (Initials): MEB:jmc

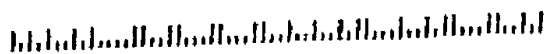
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Atto



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First Named Inventor: ERICKSON, LEIF O.

Case No.: 57347US002

Application No.: 10/028659

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A SPLICING TAPE  
TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL

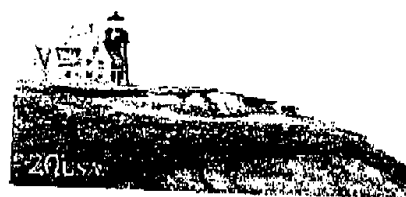
**Enclosures:**

Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and  
cited references.

Amount charged to Deposit Account: \$40.00

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